Production of British India Corporation Limited and its subsidiary companies

*59. PROF. SAURIN BHATTA-CHARYA- Will the Minister of TEXTILES foe pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the textile mills under the British Indian Corporation Limited and its subsidiary companies have been working much below their average capacities;

(b) whether Goetnment's attention have been drawn to the a-ws-item appearing in a Hindi daily "Swatantra Bharat". Kanpur of the 13th November, 1991 captioned "Lal-imli Ka Utpadan 90 fisadi gira"; and

(c) if so, what ara the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(e) The news-item refers to fall in production at Lal-Imli, high level of defective production, irregularities in sales and purchase of yarn. The news-item is not entirely based on facts. The plant utilisation at Lal-imli has been about 32 per cent due to funds constraints and non-availability of the essential raw material. The value loss on account of defects m the finished goods at Lalimli and Dhariv. al has been by and large son-tarred. The management of these mills is aware of the problems and suitable remedial measures are being taken to improve the position.

Setting up of New Airports

*80. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government hare a proposal to set up some new airports during the eurrent financial year;

(b) if so, the places identified herefor; and

(c) the amount earmarked for the construction of these airports?

THE MINISTER OP CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Amending National Highways Act

212. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the national highways in the country have become very congested;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken in this matter;

(c) whether Government propose to amend the National Highways Act and *ii* so, by when; and

(d) whether Government also propose to involve private sector and if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The National Highways in the country are generally in a traffic-worthy condition, though certain stretches are getting congested by traffic. Consequently, various steps are being taken to improve the capacity of National High-ways in high traffic density corridors within the overall availability of funds, viz..

(i) provision of pared side shoulders;

(ii) widening to 4-lana divided carriageway; and

(iii) improvement of traffic flow through propec sign boards, pave ment markings, junction Improve ment etc.

(c) and (d) There is a tentative proposal of involving the private sector in maintenance development operation of National Highways in the country. However, one of the pre-requisites for private sector participation is amendment of the National Highways Act, 1956 to provide levy of fee oh national Highway section, which is yet to be done in consultation with the appraisal agencies etc. It is, therefore, too early to give any indication about timing in this regard.

Direct flight to Jorhat from Delhi

213. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURA GOHAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to connect Jorhat with a direct flight from Delhi in its next time schedule; and

(b) whether Government are aware that in the absence of a direct air service from Delhi to Jorhat, the commuting public has to incur extra expenditure and wastage of time while proceeding via Calcutta?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In the existing schedule of Indian Airlines, the passengers travelling between Delhi and Jorhat have been provided with immediate connection at Guwahati, three days a week on each side.

Abolishing the restricted area pennit for North East Region

214. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURA GOHAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry moved the Ministry of Home Affairs for abolishing the Restricted Area Permit from the North East in order to attract foreign tourists; and

(b) if so, what are the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) The Department of Tourism has been making proposals from time to time for relaxation of the Restricted Areal Protected area regime in the North Eastern States with a view to promoting tourism.

(b) Government have made certain relaxations in the existing procedure and opened certain areas in the North Eastern States for Tourism keeping in view the security cons-raints.

Construction of Yatri Niwas in Assam

215. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURA GOHAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct few Yatri Nivas for the low budget tourists in Assam; and

(b) if so, what are the places selected for the purpose.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Guwahati.

Upgradation of Andhra Pradesh roads to National Highways

216. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SUR FACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh have suggested to the Central Government to upgrade certain roads in the State to National highways;

(b) if so, what are the details of the same;